**REMARKS**

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 1-20 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the recitation of "sulfonyl" because the examiner contends that sulfonyl is a divalent group and what else is appended to this group to meet the valence requirement is unclear. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It would be quite clear to one of skill in the art that the sulfonyl group recited in claim is referring to a substituent of Formula (I), which is linked to the rest of the molecule. Therefore, there is absolutely no doubt to one skilled in the art that a sulfonyl group is a group "-$SO_2R$" wherein R is one substituent and wherein the second substituent is the rest of the molecule, linked through the bond represented by "-" before the "S" atom. In the context of the disclosure, a disubstituted sulfonyl group would have

absolutely no meaning since it would be an independent chemical entity not bonded to the molecule of formula (I). Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are perfectly clear to one of skill in the art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Halazy et al., WO 01/47920. This rejection is obviated by the amendment to claims 12 and 14 to include a supplementary anti-diabetes agent/drug in the composition, as supported in the present specification on page 22, line 18-23. As Halazy does not disclose a composition that includes this supplementary anti-diabetes agent in combination with the compound of formula (I), Halazy cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gaillard et al., WO 03/091249. This rejection is also obviated by the amendment to claims 12 and 14 to include a supplementary anti-diabetes agent/drug in the composition. Gaillard does not disclose a composition

that includes this supplementary anti-diabetes agent in combination with the compound of formula (I), and therefore cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Halazy et al. or Gaillard et al. in view of Bennett et al., *Current Opinion Pharmacology* 3:420-425 (2003). These two obviousness rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention provides a method of treatment of metabolic disorders mediated by insulin resistance and hyperglycemia. This includes type 2 diabetes characterized by an elevated level of insulin in the blood flow. The presently claimed compounds are able to decrease the level of glucose and the level of insulin in the blood flow, as taught at pages 29-30 of the specification. This indicates that insulin resistance is not overcome merely by increasing the level of insulin but rather by improving the response to the insulin signaling.

By contrast, Bennett provides results from mice having hypoinsulinemia (see page 422, first paragraph) which

is different from type II diabetes. Bennett teaches on page 422, first column and in Figure 2, that JNK inhibitors increase plasma insulin when plasma glucose decreases. Thus, Bennett teaches away from using JNK inhibitors to decrease the plasma levels of both glucose and insulin.

Bennett also highlights the fact that JNK is involved in several mechanisms (see more particularly pages 422-424). These mechanisms are complex and induce cascades involving many biological receptors. In this reference, it is not clear which mechanism is involved in the decrease of plasma glucose. There is no indication or suggestion that using any JNK inhibitors, independently of their chemical structure, would be suitable to treat hyperglycemia. Therefore, starting from either Halazy or Gaillard, discussed above in the anticipation rejections, and using the teachings of Bennett, one of skill in the art would not arrive at the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of both obviousness rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 14 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 7 of US 7,314,878. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

US 7,314,878 does not disclose any pharmaceutical composition containing the compound of formula (I) and a supplementary anti-diabetes agent. There is nothing obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art about combining the compound of formula (I) with a supplementary anti-diabetes agent based on the teachings of US 7,314,878.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 USC §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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